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### THE BRUSSELS MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

A FEDERATION of National Research Councils met in Brussels on July 18-28. From an article in *Nature* we learn that the following countries and dominions were represented by their delegates: Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, Roumania, Serbia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

On the morning of July 18, the delegates met in the Palais des Académies, where King Albert was present. M. Harmignie, the minister of science and arts, welcomed them in a short address in which he dwelt on the importance of the occasion and on the valuable results which would be obtained from international cooperation in science, and wished them success in their deliberations.

M. E. Picard, the president of the executive committee, was prevented by ill health from being present, M. A. Lacroix presided at the meetings of the general assembly. The first business was the consideration of the statutes of the International Research Council which had been provisionally agreed upon in Paris, and now came up for consideration in the final form as recommended by the executive committee.

The objects of the council are therein defined to be:

- (a) To coordinate international efforts in the different branches of science and its applications.
- (b) To initiate the formation of international associations or unions deemed to be useful to the progress of science.
- (c) To direct international scientific action in subjects which do not fall within the province of any existing association.
- (d) To enter, through the proper channels, into relations with the governments of the countries adhering to the council to recommend the study of questions falling within the competence of the council.

The countries adhering to the council are those already mentioned as represented by their delegates as well as Brazil, Australia,

South Africa, Greece and Portugal—that is, those of the allied nations who were originally invited to form the International Council as possessing academies of science, and being engaged in scientific work. To these, other nations may be added at their own request or on the proposal of a country already belonging to the council, or union, by a three-fourths vote in favor of admission.

The work of the council will be directed by the general assembly, which will meet ordinarily every three years, but in the interval between its successive meetings business will be transacted by an executive committee of five members nominated by the general assembly and holding office until the next meeting of the general assembly. In the present case the executive committee, consisting of Professor E. Picard, Dr. A. Schuster, Dr. G. E. Hale, M. Volterra and M. Lecoq, has been reelected and will consider its character and constitution and report to the next meeting of the general assembly before its organization is finally laid down.

The concluding meeting of the council was held on July 28, when it was decided that all neutral nations should be invited to join the International Research Council and the International Unions created under its auspices, thus providing for the reconstitution of international scientific associations so far as is practicable at the present time.

### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### THE GALTON LABORATORY

IN a letter to the London *Times* Professor Karl Pearson calls attention to the fact that in 1908 Sir Francis Galton died and left the residue of his estate to the University of London for the maintenance of a laboratory for the study of eugenics. The objects of that laboratory were to be: (1) Research concerning all that tends mentally or physically to the improvement of the race; (2) dissemination of the knowledge thus acquired by public lectures and publications; and (3) the accumulation of material bearing on problems of racial fitness. Owing to the generosity of Sir Herbert Bartlett, a building for the housing